

**March 6, 2014**  
**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF PLATTSBURGH**  
**MINUTES**

Meeting commenced at **5:08pm**.

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

**Absent:** None

**Item 1: Canine Waste Containment:**

- **Mayor Calnon** opened discussion.
- **Councilor Armstrong** referenced discussion during campaign about efforts to pick-up canine waste and owners being willing to be part of solution.
- **Guest Speaker: June Foley**, member of Clinton County Canine club offered ideas to make picking up excrement easier for owners. She spoke of Denver, Colorado having poles/bags and containers available to make it easier and to create an expectation of canine owners. Cost estimates of each clean-up station to be approximately \$200 to \$250 each. The public would need to be educated about using.
- **Councilor Kasper** remarked such a program would make clean-up more friendly
- **Ms. Foley** suggested stations would be most needed in downtown area, base oval, Bailey Avenue walk thru and then eventually the seventeen parks in the city over a three year span.
- **Councilor Armstrong** noted such a plan would increase community pride, 500 canines are registered and email renewals would help with relicensing.
- **Councilor Kretser** suggested business/agency sponsorship.
- **Mayor Calnon** noted city has seven stations (Terry Gordon Bike Path)
- **Councilor Armstrong** spoke of DNA sampling of the canine population.
- **Gary Sergeant** (resident) noted health issues connected to dog excrement (ie: parasites)
- **Steve Peters** (Recreation Dept) remarked he attended a conference years ago that covered canine issues and socializing amongst dog owners.
- **Councilor Dowdle** asked about a city wide dog census.

**Item 2: Snow removal/sidewalk concerns:**

- **Councilor Kasper** hopes for a friendlier approach. Remarks included but were not limited to; helping neighbors, communication, need for a new web page, foster community support, neighborhood watch, volunteer groups, and sick/elderly restrictions, also how to fairly implement.
- **Councilor Armstrong** hopes to see a community building program, neighbor needs, and to be able to walk safely.
- **Councilor Kelly** told of liking the law the way it is written, residents should be better educated about the present law, needing to be kind, hiring contractors, helping elderly and handicapped.

- **Fritz Tobrocke** (resident) spoke of his mother's sidewalk situation on Boynton Avenue and the possibility of sand buckets being made available.
- **Councilor Kretser** questioned Mike Brodi of what would be feasible.
- **Police Chief Racicot** expressed concerns on how sand would be used.
- **Councilor Kasper** acknowledged there would probably be a "free rider" problem to consider.
- **Sarah Fussey** (resident) remarked/asked about fine levies, some walks never being cleared and creating more pedestrian friendly access.
- **Councilor O'Connell** told of poor walking conditions on Beekman Street and the possibility of using community service to clear walks.
- **Councilor Kasper** feels fines should be a last resort.
- **Councilor Kelly** suggested hints of forthcoming snow removal in the fall, attach to MLD bills to clear walks, a list of available cleaners but come November the city to take action.
- **Ann Giard-Chase** (City HR Director) asked if temporary/on call workers could be hired and made available following snow storms.
- **Kevin Farrington** (City Engineer) told of sidewalks needing to be considered a form of transportation, provide alerts via email, present system seems to working. Also, hedges are a maintenance issue.
- **Councilor O'Connell** remarked the city should use what we presently have.
- **Fritz Tobrocke** (resident) questioned Kevin Farrington about Boynton Avenue sidewalk, residents are "taxed out" and we need a better sense of pride.
- **Mayor Calnon** agreed this is a pride issue.
- **Ms. Kasper, Sr.** (resident) noted not every resident might own or have access to a computer. To register for assistance may vary time to time depending on health circumstances.

### **Item 3: Community Development:**

- **Amy Bonn** spoke of grant opportunities and spring being an opportune time to apply and applications might take up to a year. A spread sheet was presented for Council to review and see what is available and where our interests may be (housing, marina, etc.)
- **Mayor Calnon** spoke of hiring Amy on a limited basis (couple hours weekly) for grant research, collaboration, vision, etc. We could then authorize some we are interested in.
- **Councilor Kasper** referenced grants Ms. McManus had mentioned due in March involving three applications; continue Vision statement development, marketing analysis, and feasibility study asking for funds for North Margaret Street.
- **Councilor Kretser** asked Amy Bonn if municipalities will be considered if there is no Community Development Department. Amy referred to Kevin Farrington and heard would we be seriously considered?
- **Mayor Calnon** remarked Lake City Development Corp. has been very helpful.
- **Councilor Kretser** thanked the many for their expertise.
- **Amy Bonn** spoke of spread sheet (passed out by Mayor Calnon) there are actionable items and "easy wins." She heard; city beautification process, wild flowers.

- **Councilor Kelly** asked about NYSEG remediation site. Answers provided by Mayor Calnon and Kevin Farrington. Possibly all said and done in 3 to 5 years.
- **Councilor Armstrong** spoke of expanding Lake City Development Corp. wanting more diversity and more stakeholders.
- **Councilor O'Connell** asked about asset seizure funds. Explanation provided by Police Chief Racicot.
- **Councilor Kretser** told of his meeting with Brian Hartmann and Michael Cashman of SUNY. Asked for names to serve on committee.
- **Councilor O'Connell** asked that Clinton Community also be involved.
- **Fritz Tobrocke** (resident) question the status of housing complex on North Margaret Street. Mayor Calnon provided detail.

**Meeting ended at 6:35pm**

Minutes recorded and submitted per the best of ability by Councilor Dowdle.